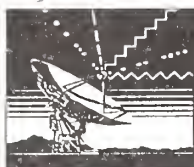


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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2718

June 16, 1995

FOREST SERVICE REINVENTION UNDERWAY -- When the plan is fully implemented, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Reinvention will save U.S. taxpayers \$1.3 billion. The agency has already reduced its 42,000 member staff by 4,000 since 1992, with plans to eliminate another 3,000 positions by 1999. After putting forth a proposal to reorganize the agency, public input provided impetus for creation of nine guiding initiatives. Chief Jack Ward Thomas says initiatives include downsizing Washington, regional and station headquarters, strengthening accountability measures, emphasizing customer service and capitalizing on new technologies. They also include creating regional leadership teams, reengineering work processes, creating internal enterprise teams and investing in employees. Implementation is set to begin immediately. **Contact: Alan Polk (202) 205-1134.**

DOORS ARE CLOSING ON SCHEDULE -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is about 20 percent through its list of over 1200 offices to be closed, and that is right on schedule. More than 900 offices are still on track for closing by the year 1997. In addition to closing field offices, administrative management functions have been consolidated and county-based field offices are being realigned into field service centers. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman is estimating a five-year savings of \$4.1 billion. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

JOINT GRAIN COMMISSION REPORT DELAYED -- The interim report due from the U.S.-Canada Joint Commission on Grains will be delayed slightly. The original due date of June 12 has passed, and commissioners expect a one week delay while they work out complications in finalizing the report text. Commissioners reached substantive agreement at their latest meeting in Winnipeg on June 1 and 2. Commission Co-chair James Miller of the U.S. says there was no disagreement in the substance of the report, but five working days was not enough time to coordinate the final text review by ten commissioners who are in two countries across four time zones. **Contact: Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2032.**

CHANGING SUGAR ALLOTMENTS -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is predicting five countries will fall short of meeting their tariff rate quota for sugar, making it possible for other countries in the program to make up the difference. Barbados, Congo, Gabon, Papua New Guinea, and St. Kitts and Nevis face the 92,427 metric ton shortage. While this doesn't mean a change in the overall tariff-rate quota announced in August 1994, it does mean that other countries will have an opportunity to buy up the sugar. **Contact: Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

EGYPT ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT -- A reallocation within the Export Enhancement Program has made it possible for Egypt to buy more U.S. wheat. A transfer of 500,000 metric tons from the Former Soviet Union and Yemen to Egypt makes this possible. While the reallocation does not change the total 1994/1995 global allocation of wheat, it does make it possible for Egypt to use up the quota. **Contact: Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

LOAN RATES FOR MINOR OILSEEDS -- County price support loan rates for 1995 crops of mustard seed, safflower seed and sunflower seed are among those announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Determined in accordance with the amended Agricultural Act of 1949, these rates reflect the national average price support rate of \$8.70 per hundredweight for each type of oilseed. For a rate schedule, contact Thomas Fink of USDA's Consolidated Farm Service Agency at (202) 720-8701. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

HOW MANY COMPLIED? -- The latest figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicate just over 83 percent of participants in the 1994 Acreage Reduction Program complied with program requirements. Of total crop acreage bases established for wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice, 83.1 percent were on farms where producers were in final compliance with the 1994 commodity production adjustment program requirements. Producers must be in compliance with program requirements to be eligible to participate in USDA programs. Consolidated Farm Service Agency offices have state-by-state compliance rates. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO RATES ARE IN -- The 1995 flue-cured tobacco rates are just two cents different than last year. The 1995 flue-cured tobacco grade loan rates range from \$1.05 to \$1.92 per pound, compared with the 1994 range of \$1.03 to \$1.92 per pound. The 1995 rate is based on the price support level of \$1.597 per pound. The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation will deduct one cent a pound from the loan rates to cover their administrative and overhead costs. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

CLEANING TOXIC WATER WITH CROPS -- Farm crop wastes can be turned into toxic wastewater cleaners. U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist Wayne Marshall discovered crop waste can be turned into granules which remove toxic metals from industrial wastewater. Water cleaning granules, like those found in fish tanks, can be made from the hulls of soybeans, cottonseed and rice. Soybean hulls ranked the highest in field tests, removing up to 100 percent of zinc, copper and nickel from wastewater. Marshall says granulated activated carbons solve two problems: how to get rid of agricultural waste and how to get rid of potentially toxic metals in water. In 1994, the food processing industry produced about 9 billion pounds of soybean hulls, 3.3 billion pounds each of cottonseed and rice hulls and 22 billion pounds of sugarcane bagasse--the fibers left after the sweet juices are extracted. These granular activated carbons, or GAC's, work because of the large number of tiny pores and channels formed when heated to a high temperature in a special furnace. To make the GAC's, researchers grind the hulls or bagasse, add black molasses as a binding agent and cook them over 900 degrees to remove any unstable waste material, which leaves true charcoal behind. It's that charcoal that contains all the tiny pits, pores and channels that prove invaluable in taking the waste out of wastewater. **Contact: Lisa Spurlock (301) 344-2824.**

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1984 -- As the temperatures heat up, people head outdoors to eat. In this edition of Agriculture USA, Lori Spiczka talks with the Acting Director of USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline about how to make summer eating safe. **(Weekly 5:00 documentary feature).**

CONSUMER TIME #1459 -- Packing a safe picnic basket. A new nutrition program. Consumer concerns about pesticides. Reinvention of USDA's Forest Service is underway. Nutrition help for new people entering the United States. **(Weekly consumer features).**

AGRITAPE FEATURES #1971 -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman talks about the future of farm programs. New approach improves a weapon against bollworms and budworms. Alternative crops and uses are gaining momentum. A farmer friendly fungus helps cotton and soybean producers. Weather puts a damper on crop prospects. **(Weekly agriculture features).**

UPCOMING ON USDA'S RADIO NEWSLINE -- Tuesday, June 20, weekly weather and crops; agricultural outlook; agricultural income and finance. Thursday, June 22, catfish processing. Friday, June 23, livestock, dairy and poultry outlook; U.S. agricultural trade update; livestock slaughter. Tuesday, June 27, agricultural chemical usage for vegetables; weekly weather and crops. Thursday, June 29, agricultural prices; tobacco markets and trade. Friday, June 30, tropical products report. **These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carry many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or (202) 720-8359

COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545

Material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES -- Patrick O'Leary reports on USDA's "Team Nutrition" initiative to teach kids about healthy eating.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA Secretary Dan Glickman testifies on commodities and farm bill issues before a Senate committee; First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary Dan Glickman and Under Secretary Ellen Haas introduce "Team Nutrition."

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

Thursday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 302, C-band, Channel 6 (Transponder 3H), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3820 MHz. Monday, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET, Galaxy 4, Channel 12 (C-band), audio 6.2 and 6.8, downlink frequency 3940 MHz.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry A. Quinn at (202)720-6072 or 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300.

OFF MIKE

RECORD MEMBERSHIP...in the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) is being reported by **Don Wick** (KWOA, Worthington, MN), who is NAFB Vice President. Don says the organization boasts 192 voting members, highest since 1988, and close to 400 associate members. Don and other NAFB officers are involved now in strategic and long-range planning. For his station, Don is already working on advance details for on-site coverage of an August celebration called Farm Fest to be held in Redwood Falls, MN. It's a three-day event and Don will be originating live broadcasts from there.

CITRUS CROP PROSPECTS...appear excellent in Florida because of changes farmers made after freezes in the 1980s knocked out many older trees, reports **Gary Cooper** (Southeast AgNet, Kenansville, FL). Thicker plantings are possible because of advances in mist or drip irrigation systems. There are 120-140 trees per acre now compared to 75-80 per acre before. Also, farmers are trimming trees to enhance productivity. A lot of the new orchards are beginning to come into production so ideal growing conditions could mean large expansion in production. Major citrus growing region also has shifted further south near the Gulf of Mexico after freeze losses in the 80's.

FANTASTIC...is how **Mike Austin** (WGEE, Green Bay, WI) described this year's alfalfa crop in northeast Wisconsin. Since the month began, Mike has covered 28 events related to June Dairy Month celebration. At one on-farm breakfast/brunch near Appleton, WI, 8,112 people were served dairy products from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

KEEPING THE ATTITUDES UP...is what **Judy Stratman** and **Gene Williams** (WNAX, Yankton, SD) are doing. Judy spoke to farmers at Willow Lake, SD, this week and emphasized the need for older farmers to encourage young ones during this year when crop setbacks have been caused by unusually wet weather. "Who knows? Next year, we may need to draw on this moisture supply," Judy reminded. Disease problems are appearing in wheat due to high moisture, and soybean acreage is up because of inability to plant corn.

Larry A. Quinn

LARRY A. QUINN, Director

Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



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